

The business of organization was concluded at the morning session, after the election of a chairman and advisory committee to arrange the next meeting. Director A. S. Coggeshall was elected Chairman, which was most appropriate in view of his effort in bringing about this much needed regional organization.

Following a fine luncheon tendered by the Trustees of the Santa Barbara Museum to the seventy-five delegates present, the afternoon was devoted to reading of papers and demonstrations of museum technique.

In the group attending from the Academy were Mr. Joseph Kingsley of the Australian Museum, Sydney; Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, N. Z., and Mr. Robert Boswell, Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston, Tasmania. These three men are now studying with Mr. Tose at the Academy, under a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.



FIRST CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

THE first California Conservation Conference was held at Asilomar, October 17-19, 1940, under the sponsorship of the California Conservation Council, of which Miss Pearl Chase of Santa Barbara is the able and efficient president.

Among Academy members participating in the program were Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Dr. Harold C. Bryant, Dr. D. T. MacDougal, Colonel John R. White, Mr. Joseph Dixon, Mr. Gordon H. True, Mr. S. B. Show, Dr. Tracy I. Storer, and Dr. Robert C. Miller.

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THE WILLIAM B. PITTS EXHIBIT OF GEM MINERALS

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November Announcement

THE REGULAR NOVEMBER MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the Auditorium of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, 245 Market Street, San Francisco, on Wednesday evening, November 6, 1940, at eight o'clock. The business meeting will be brief and will be followed by the second of the fall series of free, illustrated lectures on The Beauties of Nature, on the Walter B. Scaife Foundation.



DR. SVERDRUP TO LECTURE ON THE CALIFORNIA CURRENT

THE SPEAKER of the evening, Dr. Harald U. Sverdrup, is one of the outstanding oceanographers of the world. Before coming to his present position as Director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California, at La Jolla, California, he was successively professor of meteorology in the Geophysical Institute and professor of geophysics in the Chr. Michelsen Institute of Bergen, Norway. In 1926 he became an Associate of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

He is especially noted for his investigations in the Arctic, having had charge of the scientific work on the famous Arctic exploration vessel "Maud" in the years 1917-25, and subsequently on the submarine "Nautilus" on Sir Hubert Wilkins' attempt to dive under the Arctic ice. During the first of these expeditions Dr. Sverdrup spent one winter as the only white man in a village of Eskimos, whose language he slowly learned through communicating at first by signs.

Since coming to California in 1936, Dr. Sverdrup has devoted his attention to the ocean currents off the California coast and their influence on the weather and climate of the adjacent land. He should be able to explain some of the characteristics of San Francisco weather about which San Franciscans themselves have occasionally wondered.

The public is cordially invited.



APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all CORPORATE MEMBERS that the Council at its meeting October 18, 1940, approved the applications of Miss Patricia Ellsworth and Mr. Leonard Taix for MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after October 31, 1940, they will be considered elected.

THE WILLIAM B. PITTS EXHIBIT OF GEM MINERALS

THROUGH the generous coöperation of Mr. William B. Pitts, Honorary Curator of Gem Minerals, the Academy now has one of the most complete exhibits of gem minerals to be found in any museum in the country. Mr. Pitts, as an amateur collector, devoted many years to amassing his present collection. In the laboratory at his home in Sunnyvale the work of polishing these stones is carried on. Recently Mr. Pitts has been devising a method for making thin sections of minerals to be used in the form of lantern slides, which show in a very striking way the beauty of color and structure otherwise difficult to reveal.

The Pitts Mineral Exhibit is highly educational as well as being aesthetically pleasing. Thousands of carefully selected minerals and gems are shown, both in their natural state and also highly polished and arranged for various ornamental uses. A nearly complete collection of the known semi-precious stones is displayed in one case, showing the stones in their original state and then as they appear when cut and polished. One case is entirely devoted to polished sections of the gem minerals found in the Death Valley region of California.

Of interest to many persons are the special educational features, such as the story of opal, which is well illustrated. Opal is a quartz-like silica which has solidified from a colloidal state and contains varying quantities of water. It is peculiar, however, in that it is one of the few mineral substances which show no trace of crystallization. Hungary and Australia possess the most valuable opaline deposits. The largest known deposit in North America is situated in the Virgin Valley, Humboldt County, Nevada.

Most recent addition to the exhibit is a specially designed window case in which are displayed with excellent effect some of the most beautiful transparent sections of selected minerals. Other special features pertaining to mineralogy, such as the story of quartz and the uses of minerals in color and design, which Mr. Pitts has arranged with the coöperation of Mr. Frank Tose, Chief of Exhibits, add to the attractiveness of this hall.



REGIONAL MUSEUM CONFERENCE AT SANTA BARBARA

TEN MEMBERS of the Academy's official family attended the first California regional conference of the American Association of Museums held at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History on Saturday, October 12, 1940.

The meeting was called to order by Director Arthur Sterry Coggeshall of the Santa Barbara Museum. After a brief address of welcome by Major Max Fleischmann, President of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Barbara Museum, Mr. Frank Tose, Chief of Exhibits in the California Academy of Sciences, was invited to take the Chair and presided during the Conference.